

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph bridging pages 31 and 32 with the following amended paragraph:

Further, picture elements among with picture elements which have smaller vector values but cannot be determined to be moiré picture elements are relatively dominant are determined to be intermediate picture elements. At the picture element characteristic determining step A2, all the picture elements are sequentially scanned to execute this determination procedure. When every picture element has gone through determination as to whether it is an edge picture element, a moiré picture element or an intermediate picture element, at an image data retouching step A3, with respect to image data entered from the image data acquisition step A1, prescribed sharpening-smoothing is executed on picture elements which were determined as constituting edge picture elements, while prescribed sharpening-smoothing is executed on picture elements which were determined as constituting moiré picture elements. What were determined as constituting intermediate picture elements are subjected no processing at all. At the image data retouching step A3, as at the picture element characteristic determining step A2, all the picture elements are sequentially scanned to execute image data retouching.

Please replace the first full paragraph on page 34 with the following amended paragraph:

In the line sensor 23 here, one row of an RGB filter and a CCD element for each of three primary colors of light, or a total of three rows are usually arranged, and these three rows of

CCD elements read in the color arrangement for one row of the object of scanning in the horizontal direction and output them as image data. On the other hand, the control circuit 25 moves these illumination lamp 22 and line sensor 2423 integrally in the vertical direction of the object of scanning by driving the drive motor 24c; every time it moves them by a minute distance, acquires image data from the line sensor 23 and outputs them. This, while subjecting externally the object of scanning to main scanning in the horizontal direction, subjects it to subscanning in the vertical direction to generate two-dimensional image data.